

**11 MAY 1994**



***Aerospace Medicine***

***EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SERVICES***

**COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY**

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OPR: HQ AFMOA/SGPA  
(Lt Col Michael D. Parkinson)  
Supersedes AFR 161-12, 26 December 1989.

Certified by: HQ AFMOA/SGP  
(Col Jacqueline Morgan)  
Pages: 4  
Distribution: F

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This instruction implements AFR 48-1, *Aerospace Medical Program*. It sets personnel responsibilities and procedures for delivering epidemiological services within the Air Force.

***SUMMARY OF REVISIONS***

This revision incorporates requirements, information, and procedures previously in AFR 161-12.

***Section A—Epidemiological Services***

**1. Responsibilities:**

**1.1. HQ USAF/Surgeon General (SG).** Provides policy guidance on preventive medicine and epidemiology to major command (MAJCOM) surgeons and the Epidemiologic Research Division.

**1.2. Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC).** Maintains and budgets for an epidemiologic organization with the technical and health related laboratory capability to investigate and evaluate diseases and conditions that affect the health of Air Force personnel and their beneficiaries.

**1.3. The Epidemiologic Research Division, Armstrong Laboratory (AL/AOE).** Provides world-wide consultant services in epidemiology, public health, and preventive medicine. It also conducts population-based epidemiologic studies, on-site epidemiologic investigations, surveys, and evaluations.

**1.4. Medical Treatment Facilities (MTF) Commanders.** Ensure procedures are established to collect, review, and report communicable, occupational, environmental, and other diseases to AL/AOE. Commanders may also request epidemiological services, as needed, to control disease outbreaks or investigate health-related conditions that affect the performance of Air Force personnel.

## ***Section B—General Functions of the Epidemiologic Research Division (AL/AOE)***

### **2. Functions:**

- 2.1. Prevention.** The AL/AOE investigates, assists in controlling, and advises on ways to prevent diseases or conditions that affect the readiness of the Air Force and cause Air Force personnel to lose the most time from duty.
- 2.2. Investigation.** The AL/AOE investigates those diseases or health-related conditions with high morbidity or mortality rates that are most likely to affect Air Force personnel.
- 2.3. Consultation.** The AL/AOE consults with commanders on issues of public health and preventive medicine critical to wartime operations.

## ***Section C—Primary Epidemiological Services***

### **3. Program Elements:**

**3.1. Monitoring and Surveillance.** AL/AOE monitors and surveys selected diseases and health-related conditions that have the most detrimental impact on the readiness of Air Force personnel.

**3.2. Consultation.** AL/AOE provides consultation and laboratory support to Air Force MTFs worldwide. It provides epidemiologic teams to support theater commanders during combat and humanitarian operations.

3.2.1. AL/AOE provides consultation and laboratory support for infectious-disease surveillance and immunization programs for the recruit population at the Air Force Military Training Center and the student populations at the Air Force Academy and at secondary training bases.

#### **3.3. Response to Requests for Services:**

3.3.1. MAJCOM surgeons, MTF commanders, and special unit surgeons may request on-site services by telephone, message, or letter. Write or call the Epidemiologic Research Division, AL/AOE, 2601 West Road, Suite 2, Brooks AFB, TX 78235-5241; DSN 240-3471 or commercial (210) 536-3471; Telefax 240-2638. Follow telephone requests with written or message correspondence. If you are initiating a request at the base level, you must inform MAJCOM surgeons.

3.3.2. The Chief, Epidemiologic Research Division (AL/AOE), may initiate an epidemiological investigation to prevent or curtail disease transmission.

**3.4. Liaison With Other Agencies.** AL/AOE consults with local, state, federal, foreign national and international health agencies, and with US Army, Navy, and Department of Defense preventive medicine and epidemiologic organizations.

**3.5. Cost.** Normally, the requesting organization does not pay for epidemiological services.

## ***Section D—Epidemiological Services Reports***

### **4. Types of Reports:**

**4.1. On-Site Consultation or Survey Reports.** After an on-site consultation or epidemiologic investigation, the AL/AOE gives a written summary of the findings and preliminary recommendations

to the MTF commander. When all data is analyzed, the AL/AOE then prepares a formal written report and sends it to the MTF commander, the MAJCOM surgeon, HQ AFMC/Surgeon General, and Air Force Medical Operating Agency/SGPA (HQ AFMOA/SGPA).

**4.2. Annual Epidemiologic Activities Reports.** The Chief, Epidemiologic Research Division, submits an annual synopsis of major activities through Commander, Human Systems Command, HSC/CC, and HQ AFMC/SG to HQ AFMOA/SGP. Give this annual report the reports-control symbol (RCS: HAF-SGP[A] 7129). Complete the report by March 31 except during emergency conditions.

ALEXANDER M. SLOAN, Lt General, USAF, MC  
Surgeon General

## **Attachment 1**

### **GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES, ABBREVIATIONS, AND ACRONYMS**

#### ***References***

AFPD 48-1, *Aerospace Medical Program*

#### ***Abbreviations and Acronyms***

**AFMC**—Air Force Materiel Command

**AFMOA**—Air Force Medical Operations Agency

**AFPD**—Air Force Policy Directive

**AFR**—Air Force Regulation

**AL**—Armstrong Laboratory

**HQ USAF**—Headquarters United States Air Force

**HSC**—Human Systems Command

**MAJCOM**—Major Command

**MTF**—Medical Treatment Facility

**SG**—Surgeon General